

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. An integrated-circuit ("IC") layout comprising a first set of Steiner points that are in shape of a non-quadrilateral polygon.
2. The IC layout of claim 1, wherein the polygon is an octagon.
3. The IC layout of claim 2, wherein the octagon has eight equal sides.
4. The IC layout of claim 2 further comprising a second set of Steiner points that have a diamond shape.
5. The IC layout of claim 4 further comprising a third set of Steiner points that have a rectangular shape.
6. The IC layout of claim 1, wherein the polygon is a hexagon.
7. The IC layout of claim 6, wherein the hexagon has six equal sides.
8. The IC layout of claim 1 further comprising:
 - a) a set of nets with routable elements;
 - b) a first set of interconnect lines for connecting the routable elements of the nets, wherein the interconnect lines have ends that are partial non-quadrilateral polygons.
9. The IC layout of claim 8, wherein the interconnect-line ends are half non-quadrilateral polygons.

10. The IC layout of claim 9, wherein the interconnect-line ends are half octagons and the Steiner points are octagons.

11. The IC layout of claim 10, wherein the interconnect-line ends are half hexagons and the Steiner points are hexagons.

12. An integrated-circuit ("IC") layout comprising a first set of Steiner points, wherein each Steiner point in the first set has a circular shape.

13. The IC layout of claim 12 further comprising a second set of Steiner points, wherein each Steiner point in the second set has a non-circular shape.

14. The IC layout of claim 12 further comprising:

- a) a set of nets with routable elements;
- b) a first set of interconnect lines for connecting the routable elements of the nets, wherein the interconnect lines have ends that are partially circular.

15. The IC layout of claim 14, wherein the interconnect-line ends are semi-circular.